Appendix Table 7-13 Public assessment of benefits and harms of scientific research: 1985–2014

(Percent)

Assessment	1985 (*n* = 1,986)	1988 (*n* = 1,021)	1990 (*n* = 2,005)	1992 (*n* = 974)	1995 (*n* = 2,006)	1997 (*n* = 2,000)	1999 (*n* = 1,882)	2001 (*n* = 1,574)	2008 (*n* = 2,021)	2012 (*n* = 2,256)	2014 (*n* = 2,130)
Benefits strongly outweigh harmful results	44	53	47	42	43	47	47	47	42	50	43
Benefits slightly outweigh harmful results	25	23	25	30	29	28	27	25	26	22	26
Benefits are about equal to harmful results	4	5	7	6	3	6	5	12	16	13	16
Harmful results slightly outweigh benefits	13	8	10	12	10	8	10	7	7	6	7
Harmful results strongly outweigh benefits	6	4	3	5	3	4	5	3	2	2	2
Don’t know	8	7	8	5	13	7	6	6	7	8	6

NOTES: Responses to *People have frequently noted that scientific research has produced benefits and harmful results. Would you say that, on balance, the benefits of scientific research have outweighed the harmful results, or have the harmful results of scientific research been greater than its benefits?* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding. For 1979 and 1981 data, see *Science and Engineering Indicators 1993*, Appendix Table 7-18. For 2004 data, see *Science and Engineering Indicators 2006*, Appendix Table 7-17. For 2006 data, see *Science and Engineering Indicators 2008*, Appendix Table 7-12. For 2010 data, see *Science and Engineering Indicators 2012*, Appendix Table 7-34.

SOURCES: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (1985–2001); University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2008–14).

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